

PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN

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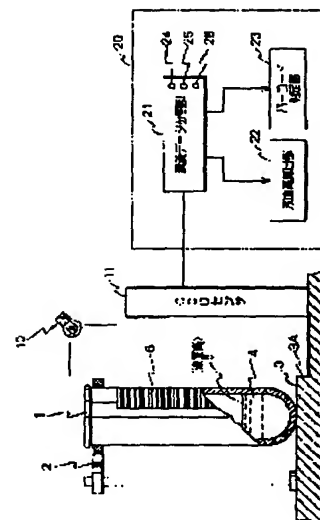
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(54) CONTAINER INFORMATION MEASURING APPARATUS

(57)Abstract:

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To acquire information about an object to be inspected in a short time at a low cost.

SOLUTION: The apparatus comprises a table 3 for holding a container 1 such as test tubes, a supporting means 2 disposed near the table 3 for supporting the container 1, a light source 10 for irradiating an illumination light on the side face of the container 1, a CCD sensor 11 having pixels for imaging the side face of the container in a direction approximately perpendicular to the surface of a liq. 4 in the container 1 and a signal processing means 20 for processing density data outputted from the CCD sensor 11. The signal processing means 20 comprises a density data divider 21 for extracting a bar code part signal with a rapid change of the density from the density data and also a liq. part signal having a gradation value corresponding to the density of the liq. in the container 1 from the density data, a bar code deciding part 23 for interpreting an identification code described by the bar code, based on the bar code part signal extracted by the data divider 21, and a calculator 22 for calculating the liq. level height 5 in the container 1 according to the pixel position at the top end of the container 1 in the liq. part signal extracted by the divider 21.



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